



RELIGIOUS ACTION CENTER OF REFORM JUDAISM

The Religious Action Center pursues social justice and religious liberty by mobilizing the American Jewish community and serving as its advocate in the nation's capital

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Dear Representative Dingell:

On behalf of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, comprised of over 900 Reform Jewish congregations encompassing 1.5 million members across North America, and the Central Conference of American Rabbis, representing 1700 Reform rabbis, I write to applaud your sponsorship of the Bipartisan Patient Protection Act of 2001 (S. 872/H.R. 526) and to add our name to the growing list of organizations proud to support this legislation.

We join you in believing that this bipartisan legislation represents the best option for all Americans because it puts the power to make health care decisions where it belongs - in the hands of patients and their health care providers. It provides all Americans in private health insurance plans with the comprehensive patient protections they need and deserve.

There is a Jewish teaching that when God created the universe, we were endowed with the ability to become God's partners in curing illness. That ability, of course, carries with it a solemn responsibility. Providing health care is not just an obligation for the patient and the doctor, but for society as well. It is for this reason that Maimonides, a revered Jewish scholar, listed health care first on his list of the ten most important communal services that a city had to offer to its residents. A comprehensive, enforceable Patient's Bill of Rights would bring us one step closer to fulfilling our moral obligation to provide quality health care to all members of our society.

We thank you for your continued commitment to true patient protections, and endorse the Bipartisan Patients Protection Act of 2001. Please let us know if we can assist you in any way during the coming weeks by contacting Rachel Orkand, Legislative Assistant, at (202) 387-2800 or rorkand@rac.org.

Respectfully,



Rabbi David Saperstein
Director and Counsel